THE EPIPHANIES.

Acts 1:3 To whom also he showd himsplf alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

Intro. 2. The meaning of "Epiphany"- "to show one's self".
Read text.
1. Easter- As the sun rises in the East, so the Sun of Righteousness rose from the dead, hence we call it Easter.

3. No intention to discuss the appearances of Jesus as proof of his resurrection. We use them suggestively, to give to us that spiritual understanding which will help us live our lives in God.

I. Our Lord first appeared to Mary Magdalene alone.
The whole record of her life summed up in three words-"She loved much".
The first crown of distinction placed upon the brow of Love.

II. Next, to a group of women hastening from the empty tomb to the disciples to announce the resurrection of Jesus, in obedience to the angel's command.
Here, the second crown of distinction is placed upon the brow of Obedience.
"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, to harken than the fat of many rams."
Obedience almost a neglected teaching.

III. The third appearance was to Peter alone.
Peter who denied his Lord, came back repentant.
The crown of Repentance.
The prodigal son. God's children, however far from home can always turn back and find a welcome.

IV. The fourth time Jesus walked with the two on their way to Emmaus. They did not recognize Jesus.
After all his explanations of the Christ, they still did not recognize Him. Finally by hismanner of breaking bread they suddenly knew him.
The influence of the hidden God.
Not by preaching or arguments or creed, but by some simple act of kindness, some little deed of love, are many brought to recognize Jesus Christ.

V. Jesus appeared to ten of the disciples while thy were behind closed doors.
He removed their fears.
He restored and confirmed their faith
He strengthened their hope
He gave to them the Holy Spirit.

This appearance was at the close of that first dy day of the week, the very day Jesus rose from the grave.
All the appearances on this first day surely make this to be "The Lord s Day."

VI. One week later, again on the first day of the week, Jesus made his sixth appearance.
For the benefit of Thomas, the doubter.
"My Lord and my God".
God s infinite patience with honest doubters.
My doubts and my recovery of faith.
I believe in scientific investigation, in seeking after truth, etc. but not so as to destroy my faith in God.
After all we know very little. Five minutes on the other side we'll know more than we learned in our whole lifetime here.
"Because thou hast seen me thou hast believed;
VII. blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."

VII. To the seven at the sea of Tiberias.
Peter's restoration to office.
The care and nurture of all believers.
The ministry of the "ord.

IX. VIII. On a mountain in Galilee. 500
Many assembled together. Some doubting. An all-day conference. At the close Jesus gave the great commission, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."
The gr eat missionary enterprise of the church.
The nations today beginning to see that the Gospel teachings alone can save civilization.
"And lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

IX. The ninth to James, the Just, alone. He was the brother of Jesus. Not a disciple at first.
The moderator of the first Symod at Jerusalem.
the writer of the epistle of James.

The witness to blood relations.

3. They sometimes are the first to discredit our profession of Xty.
But when we prove to be loyal and true they recognize in us the work of God well done

X. The tenth appearance and the last, connected with Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives.
The scene of the Ascension.
The going back to Jerusalem with great joyand gladness.

Conclusion-We still speak of the future state as "the great unknown" , "The bourne from which no traveler returns".
We still ask, "how are the dead raised?"
"With what body do they come?"

But reading the epiphanies and witnissing the restoration of faith and hope in the disciples how can we ask any longer such questions or make such statements?

Eternal life is here and now. Thru love and obedience, thru right living and unselfish service, we enter into our eternal life.

The aeroplane starting along the ground, then finally it leaves the earth and flies!
Our earthly existance is our starting, when death comes we leave the earth for our flight unhindered into the realms of heavenly living such as we have never experienced here.